

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

CIEP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

AGR-10 INT-05 TAR-01 FEAE-00 OES-05 ACDA-10 ERDA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1788

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 3359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SOPN DA US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT

SUMMARY: SO FAR, THE DANISH PRESS HAS CONCENTRATED ON REPORT-
ING PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN'S COMMENTS AFTER HIS
NOVEMBER 14 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD. THERE HAS BEEN NO
EDITORIAL COMMENT. JORGENSEN IS REPORTED AS DESCRIBING THE
PRESIDENT AS A "KIND AND OPEN MAN" AND AS "HAVING CONFIDENCE
IN THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT AS THE LEADER OF THE WESTERN WORLD."
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY
CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE QUESTIONS. JORGENSEN SAID
THAT THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR ENDED ANY SERIOUS BILATERAL
PROBLEMS WITH THE US AND ASSURED THE PRESIDENT THAT HOME RULE
FOR GREENLAND WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON US BASES THERE.

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END SUMMARY.

1. MOST DANISH MEDIA COVERAGE SO FAR OF PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN'S CALL ON THE PRESIDENT HAS APPEARED IN COPENHAGEN'S TWO MOST PRESTIGIOUS DAILIES, BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE) AND POLITIKEN (INDEPENDENT-LEFT OF CENTER) , BOTH WITH CORRESPONDENTS IN WASHINGTON COVERING THE VISIT. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S AKTUELT, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, HAS GIVEN THE TRIP OF ITS PARTY LEADER TO ALL THREE OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES ONLY MINIMAL COVERAGE, WITH TODAY'S (NOVEMBER 14) EDITION SHOWING A SMALL PICTURE OF ANKER JORGENSEN MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND ABOUT THREE INCHES OF TYPE. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT YET.

2. ALMOST ALL MEDIA ACCOUNTS QUOTE JORGENSEN AS DESCRIBING THE PRESIDENT AS A "KIND AND OPEN MAN....I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT AS THE LEADER OF THE WESTERN WORLD".

3. THIS MORNING, BOTH POLITIKEN AND BERLINGSKE CARRIED SIMILAR REPORTS BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH JORGENSEN AFTER HIS CALL AT THE WHITE HOUSE.. THE MOST COMPLETE REPORT OF THE MEETING HAS APPEARED IN BERLINGSKE, WRITTEN BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, BENT ALBERECSEN. (THE TEXT OF HIS STORY IS BEING TRANSMITTED IN FULL.) ALBRECHTSEN NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONVERSATION WITH FORD RANGED OVER A WIDE SPECTRUM, ACCORDING TO JORGENSEN THE TALK FOCUSED ON GENERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES WITH DANISH EXPORTS TO THE US.

4. ASKED AFTER THE MEETING AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHETHER HIS VISIT MEANT THAT DANISH-AMERICAN DISAGREEMENTS AFTER THE STORMY VIETNAM-WATERGATE YEARS ARE OVER, JORGENSEN ANSWERED THAT THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR HAD AUTOMATICALLY REMOVED THIS AS A PROBLEM, AND THAT BILATERAL DIFFICULTIES ARE NOW SMALLER.

5. JORGENSEN SAID THAT HE AND FORD ALSO TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON ENERGY PROBLEMS AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON DISARMAMENT AFTER THE HELSINKI SUMMIT CONFERENCE.

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6. BOTH BERLINGSKE TIDENDE AND POLITIKEN NOTED THAT JORGENSEN STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF CREATING STABLE WORLD MONETARY CONDITIONS. VIS-A-VIS RAMBOUILLET, HE EXPRESSED REALIZATION THAT NOT ALL COUNTRIES COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMIT MEETING AND FOUND IT NATURAL THAT LEADERS OF THE LARGE WESTERN AND INDUSTRIAL STATES TALK TOGETHER.

7. DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSION

OF THE THIRD WORLD, JORGENSEN SAID THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING TO A "NEW ECONOMIC WORLD ORDER" AND THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HAD TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING FOR THE LDC'S. JORGENSEN, HOWEVER, HAD CERTAIN RESERVATIONS. HE HAD ALSO EXPRESSED THESE DURING HIS VISIT TO MEXICO WHERE HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR WORLD ECONOMIC REFORM WERE NOT PRESENT AS LONG AS THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD'S ECONOMY WAS SUFFERING A CRISIS. FORD STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO RESTORE EMPLOYMENT.

8. JORGENSEN TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT HOME RULE FOR GREENLAND WOULD NOT MATERIALLY AFFECT THE STATUS OF US BASES THERE.

9. JORGENSEN NOTED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SUPPORTED THE UN RESOLUTION AGAINST ZIONISM BUT ADDED THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE OVER-EMPHASIZED.

10. ACCORDING TO JORGENSEN, THE PRESIDENT DISPLAYED AN OPEN MIND TOWARD DANISH EXPRESSIONS OF THE NEED FOR MORE STABILITY IN MONETARY AFFAIRS BUT DID NOT ADVANCE THE AMERICAN VIEWPOINT WHICH STILL FAVORS FLUCTUATING MONETARY EXCHANGE RATES.

11. JORGENSEN WARNED AGAINST TRADE "PROTECTIONISM" BUT ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE TENDENCIES IN THIS DIRECTION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC. HE SPECIFICALLY BROUGHT UP DANISH INTEREST IN A RENUNCIATION BY THE UNITED STATES OF ITS INTENTION TO APPLY COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON HAMS FROM THE EC. FORD EXPRESSED "UNDERSTANDING OF THIS" BUT MADE NO CONCRETE PROMISES. THE LACK OF SUCH A PROMISE, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITIKEN CORRESPONDENT OBSERVED, WAS APPARENTLY A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE DANES WHO HAD HOPED FOR SUCH A STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. ALBRECHTSEN SPECULATED IN BERLINGSKE TIDENDE THAT THE US INTENTION NOT TO APPLY COUNTERVAILING DUTIES WOULD BE EXPRESSED TO EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH (WHO IS A DANISH NATIONAL) WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

12. BERLINGSKE ALSO REPORTED THAT, AS THE PRESIDENT WAS ACCOMPANYING JORGENSEN TO HIS CAR, THE FORMER NOTED THAT OLOF PALME, THE SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER, WAS ALSO IN THE UNITED STATES BUT THAT HE (FORD) HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE HIM. WHEN JORGENSEN LEARNED THAT HE AND PALME WOULD BE ON THE SAME SAS PLANE LEAVING NEW YORK AT MIDNIGHT, NOVEMBER 13, JORGENSEN COMMENTED THAT "WE WILL HAVE ONE

MORE SUMMIT MEETING OVER THE ATLANTIC".

13. TWO OTHER PAPERS, JYLLANDS POSTEN (INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE) AND THE TABLOID BT, IN THEIR STORIES ON THE VISIT, QUOTED JORGENSEN AS SAYING "I DO NOT KNOW HIS (THE PRESIDENT'S) DOMESTIC POLICY BUT I KNOW HIS FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS. I CANNOT SEE THAT THESE VIEWS WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR DENMARK. THE PRESIDENT WAS WELL PREPARED FOR ALL THE QUESTIONS I RAISED".

14. THE FIRST REPORT ON THE MEETINGS APPEARED BY SATELLITE ON DANISH TELEVISION NEWS LAST NIGHT AT 1930 SHOWING PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN'S INTERVIEW AFTER HIS WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. THE SHORT INTERVIEW TOUCHED MOST OF THE POINTS SET OUT ABOVE INCLUDING NORMALIZATION OF US-DANISH RELATIONS AND THE FOCUS ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS.
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